

Information for candidates: Elections to the UK council of the British Medical Association for the 2022-23 to 2025-2026 sessions



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This is a general guide only. The information contained within the guide is subject to the articles and bye-laws of the association and to company and trade union law, which can be found on the **BMA website**.

Introduction

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in standing for election to BMA UK Council.

This booklet is intended to:

- help you complete your nomination form online
- explain what the council does and its constitutional position within the association
- explain what is expected of members of council and give details about how the election will run

If anything is unclear or you would like further information or assistance in completing your nomination please contact Civica Election Services (CES), by email: support-cesvotes@civica.co.uk

Voting members of the council of the British Medical Association will be elected in 2022 to serve for four years for the sessions, 2022-23 to 2025-2026.

The 2022 election will be conducted to elect the entire voting membership of council.

By adding your name to the nomination form you confirm that you are lawfully entitled to stand for the position to which it relates and you specifically confirm that you have not committed any offence pursuant to which section 45B of The Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 relates.

Completing and submitting your nomination form

Completing and submitting your nomination form

You should read these notes before completing your nomination form.

Completing the nomination form

Nominations must be made online via the website:

www.cesvotes.com/bmacouncil22 Copies received via any other method will not be accepted.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is **4pm Monday 14 February 2022**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

The election is only open to BMA members. All members standing for regional and branch of practice seats, where relevant, must ensure that they are in a position to maintain their non-overseas status for the duration of any appointment under this process. Any change to a member's address resulting in their reclassification as an overseas member will invalidate the member's appointment with effect from the date of the reclassification.

Overseas members (Article 4 (2)) – All overseas members by definition have no assigned region and so are excluded from standing as candidates in the geographical/regional elections. Additionally, as they work overseas, they can only stand in an election for a branch of practice constituency if they meet the criteria set out in the branch of practice definition. Overseas members who meet the criteria of self-identification can stand for the Ethnic Minority seats. Overseas members will be determined via their preferred contact address on the BMA's register of members at the time nominations in this election open on **Monday 10 January 2022**.

For the election you will automatically be entered into the GEOGRAPHICAL and BRANCH OF PRACTICE seats ballot (excluding overseas members). Should you feel that you are unable or do not wish to represent your region/nation or branch of practice you have the option to be removed from either ballot by checking the opt out box. However, in opting out of either ballot you may reduce your chances of being elected to Council.

To be entered into the ETHNIC MINORITY seats ballot you must self-identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic and check the opt in box.

A nomination form that is not properly completed and submitted will be considered invalid. It is your responsibility to ensure that the form is correct and complete. Amendments to forms will not be permitted after the close of nominations. If you experience any difficulties in completing or submitting your nomination via the online nominations site please email Civica Election Services (CES), by email: support-cesvotes@civica.co.uk

(‘Geographical’) region/nation

You will automatically be entered into the GEOGRAPHICAL seats ballot (excluding overseas members) unless you choose to be removed from the ballot by checking the opt out box.

You will be expected to maintain two-way accountability between your elected geographical zone and UK Council and will have an ex-officio seat on your relevant regional council with which to do so.

There are 10 regional zones – plus each of the three devolved nations. Your ‘geographical’ zone will be your region/nation and is determined by the division you are listed under via your preferred contact address on the BMA’s register of members at the time nominations in this election open on **Monday 10 January 2022**. You will find your (‘geographical’) region/nation on the map and division chart on pages 7 to 11.

The 10 regional zones will be valid from the publication date of the ‘Information for Candidates’ booklet. Divisions that have undergone a merger after this time will not be listed on the map or division chart on pages 8-11. Candidates should contact membership if they are unsure of which (‘geographical’) region / nation their division falls under.

The 13 council 'geographical' zones are:

Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, South Central, South East Coast, Eastern, London, South West, North West, North East, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands



'Geographical' zones by division

England (10), Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Eastern region	London region	South Central region
Division name	Division name	Division name
Cambridge Huntingdon and Ely	City and Hackney	Basingstoke and North Hampshire
East and North Hertfordshire	Edgware and Hendon	Buckinghamshire
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	Enfield and Haringey	East Berkshire
North Bedfordshire	Greenwich Bexley and Bromley	Isle of Wight
North Essex	Islington	Milton Keynes
Norwich	Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	Oxford
Peterborough	Mid-Surrey Kingston and Esher	Portsmouth and S E Hampshire
South Bedfordshire	North Central London	Southampton and S W Hampshire
South Essex	North East London	West Berkshire
Suffolk	North West London	Winchester
West Hertfordshire	South West London	
West Norfolk and Wisbech	Tower Hamlets	

South East Coast region	South West region	West Midlands region
Division name	Division name	Division name
Aldershot Farnham and Frimley	Bath District	Birmingham
Brighton	Bristol	Black Country
Dartford Gravesend and Medway	Cornwall	Burton and District
Eastern Kent	East Dorset	Coventry and Warwickshire
East Surrey	Exeter and Mid Devon	North and Mid Staffordshire
East Sussex	Gloucestershire	Shropshire
Guildford	Guernsey and Alderney	Solihull
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	Jersey	Worcestershire and Herefordshire
Mid-Downs	North Devon	
West Sussex	Plymouth	
Woking and Chertsey	Salisbury	
	Somerset	
	South Devon	
	Swindon	
	West Dorset	
	Weston-Super-Mare	

North West region	East Midlands region	Yorkshire region
Division name	Division name	Division name
Blackburn	Chesterfield	Barnsley
Blackpool and Fylde	Derby	Bradford and Airedale
Bolton and Wigan	Dukeries	Calderdale
Burnley Pendle and Rossendale	Holland	Dewsbury, Pontefract and Wakefield
Bury	Kettering	Doncaster
Chester	Kesteven	East Yorkshire
Crewe	Leicestershire and Rutland	Grimsby
East Cumbria	Lincoln	Harrogate
Furness	Northampton District	Huddersfield
Isle of Man	Nottingham	Leeds
Lancaster	West Derbyshire	Northallerton
Liverpool		Rotherham
Macclesfield		Scarborough
Manchester and Salford		Scunthorpe
Oldham		Sheffield
Ormskirk and Skelmersdale		York
Preston, Chorley and South Ribble		
Rochdale		
Sefton		
St Helens and Knowsley		
Stockport		
Tameside		
Trafford		
Warrington		
West Cumbria		
Wigan		
Wirral		

North East region	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Division name	Division name	Division name	Division name
Darlington	Angus	Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	N Ireland – Eastern
Gateshead	Argyll and Bute	Clwyd North	N Ireland – Northern
Hartlepool	Ayrshire and Arran	Gwent and South Powys	N Ireland – Southern
Hexham	Caithness	Mid Glamorgan	N Ireland – Western
Mid Northumberland	Dumbartonshire	North East Wales	
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	Dumfries and Stewartry	North West Wales	
North Durham	Dundee	West and South West Wales	
North Northumberland	Fife	West Glamorgan	
North Tyneside	Forth Valley		
South Tees	Grampian		
South Tyneside	Greater Glasgow		
South West Durham	Inverness		
Stockton-On-Tees	Lanarkshire		
Sunderland	Lothian		
	Orkney		
	Perth and Kinross		
	Renfrewshire		
	Ross and Cromarty		
	Scottish borders		
	Shetland		
	Sutherland		
	Western Isles		
	Wigtown		

Branch of practice

Your primary branch of medical practice will be used for the purposes of the election and will be determined by the category of medical work in which, at the time that nominations in this election open (**Monday 10 January 2022**), you spend the majority of your remunerated medical time (except for medical students and retired members). If required to do so by the Returning Officer for the election, you must show evidence of your branch of practice status or risk being disqualified from the election. If you think that your entry in our membership records may be incorrect, you must contact one of our advisors on **0300 123 1233** or email membership@bma.org.uk to ensure you are correctly listed. Members can also update their details online at bma.org.uk/updatemydetails

In the event of a dispute as to your eligibility to stand for election, your electoral zone, your branch of practice or ethnic minority seat, the decision of the Returning Officer will be final.

The branch of practice groups and their definitions are as follows:

Academics

Doctors holding appointments from one or more of the following organisations: a university, medical school, the Medical Research Council or other academic institutions engaged in medical research and/or medical education. This category also includes pharmaceutical physicians.

Armed forces

Registered medical practitioners serving in the armed forces, reserve armed forces and civilian doctors employed in the armed forces and veteran doctors from these categories: Armed Forces Army, Armed Forces Navy, Armed Forces RAF, Armed Forces Oral/Dental Surgeon, Civilian Medical Practitioner, Civilian Hospital Doctor, Army Reservist, Navy Reservist, RAF Reservist, Veteran, Medical Cadet.

Consultants

A member who is appointed as a consultant on a substantive, honorary or locum basis and works in a clinical role.

General practice

Medical practitioners providing and/or performing primary medical services under the National Health Service Act 2006 and/or the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 and/or the National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006 and/or the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and/or the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 and any Acts or Orders amending or consolidating the same and as from time to time extended to all or any part of the United Kingdom or doctors providing services of substantially the same type and nature and not under NHS legislation, excluding GP trainees. This category includes prison GPs.

Junior doctors

Doctors holding an appointment in a recognised training grade (including GP trainees) or who are within two calendar years of holding such an appointment and able to declare their intention of fulfilling such an appointment again.

Medical students

Medical student members of the BMA who are at the time of election enrolled in a course of study in the United Kingdom for, or leading to, a primary medical qualification and attending medical school in the UK.

Occupational medicine

Doctors holding appointments as accredited specialists in occupational medicine.

Public health medicine

Doctors working in public health practice who are on the specialist register for public health medicine or who, while working in a career post, are working to obtain a CESR in public health medicine.

Retired doctors

Members permanently and predominantly retired from all medical practice.

Staff, associate specialists and specialty doctors

Doctors holding appointments as Associate Specialists, Associate Specialist Oral/Dental Surgeons, Clinical Assistant Hospital Practitioners, Non-standard Career Grade (including trust doctors) Specialty Doctors, Staff Grade, Career Grade Hospital Doctors whose appointment does not require them to be on the Specialist Register.

Other

Members in practice, but not covered by those categories listed above.

Ethnic minority seats

To be eligible for this election you must self-identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic and check the opt in box.

Gender

There will be gender constraints applied to the election. For the election you must choose one of the following three options:

- 1 WOMAN
- 2 MAN
- 3 IN ANOTHER WAY please specify

Please note that "IN ANOTHER WAY" is the gender category. The self-description is not a sub constituency/category. In checking the IN ANOTHER WAY box you are declaring that you do not identify as a MAN or a WOMAN.

Your self-declared gender category will not appear in the candidates' booklet of the ballot paper.

This information is only being collated here in order to apply the gender constraint and not for monitoring or any other purpose.

Your brief message (30 words max)

This is for you to highlight to the membership your main message about your candidature. Your brief message will be sent with the ballot papers. It will also be made available for BMA members via a publicly available and fully searchable area of the BMA website and may be made available to *The Doctor* magazine and related media.

Your photo

Members have the option of submitting a recent passport sized photo of themselves only which will be included with their election statement to voters. This must not include any logos or election material.

Canvassing

Canvassing is an integral part of an election. When canvassing candidates should make sure they:

- Role model BMA behaviours at all times in the election process.
- Highlight your strengths and experience.
- Don't make negative comments about rival candidates.
- Don't put pressure on people to vote for you or ask others to do so.
- Don't make promises you can't keep – you will be held to account in the next round of elections.

Candidates must not use BMA resources to canvass voters, including:

- BMA Listservers
- BMA social media accounts
- BMA email addresses
- BMA staff resource

While canvassing through personal social media accounts and emails is allowed, you must ensure that any communication does not contravene any policies of any organisation, forum or group and is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). If you're not sure what is acceptable, ask for advice from your committee secretary or elections team: elections@bma.org.uk

Oversight and sanctions

The BMA's Group Chief Executive Officer (or their nominated deputy) is the returning officer for all BMA elections.

These election rules are referenced in the BMA code of conduct (referred to as the BMA canvassing guide) and not adhering to these rules can lead to an investigation under the code of conduct and sanctions applied through the BMA's resolution process

Statements

Any civil or criminal liability in respect of publishing or copying an election address rests solely with the candidate concerned.

If you have any doubts as to your eligibility for election please contact Civica Election Services (CES), by email:
support-cesvotes@civica.co.uk

Civica Election Services (CES) will acknowledge receipt of both statement and photo.

About BMA UK Council

Information about BMA UK Council

Council's constitutional position and its activities

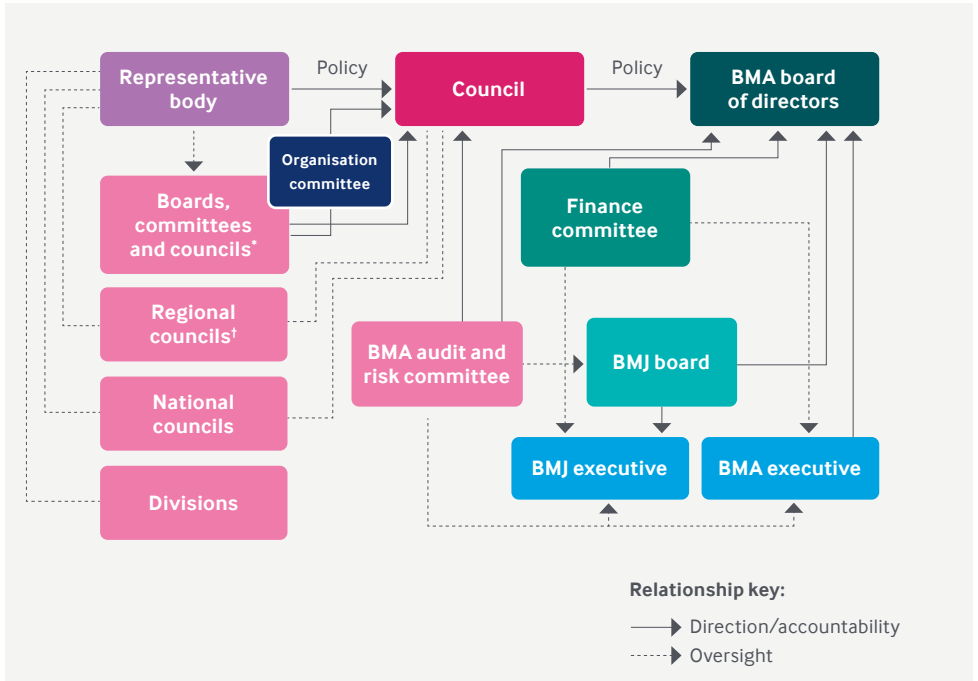
The BMA is a trade union and a company limited by guarantee. UK Council is the principal executive committee (PEC) of the trade union.

Council sets the strategic direction of the Association in line with policy decided by the representative body at the annual representative meeting (ARM). Council is responsible for the formulation of policy throughout the year and for ensuring the implementation of that policy.

Council also appoints members to committees and the board of directors. The board of directors is responsible for administering the affairs of the Association, management of the finances, general administration and ensures delivery and implementation of the strategic and operational objectives of the Association.

BMA policy and the articles and bye-laws can be found on the BMA website [bma.org.uk/ukcouncil](https://www.bma.org.uk/ukcouncil)

Governance



*Committees:

Consultants
 General practitioners
 Junior doctors
 Medical academic staff
 Medical students
 Public health medicine
 Staff, associate specialists and specialty doctors
 Armed forces
 Occupational medicine
 Civil and public service
 Forensic medicine and secure environments
 Medico-legal
 Pensions
 Private practice
 Professional fees
 Committee on community care
 Committee of medical managers

International
 Medical ethics
 BMA charitable trust
 Board of science
 Patient liaison group
 Retired members
 Professional regulation

†Regional councils:

Eastern
 East midlands
 London
 North east
 North west
 South east coast
 South west
 South Central
 West midlands
 Yorkshire

Arrangements for meetings of UK Council

The Association's 'session' runs from the end of one annual representative meeting (ARM) to the end of the next one, normally June to June. Council normally meets six times during the session. Members of council and those elected to take up office are members of the representative body which normally meets for three to four days. At the end of the ARM a meeting of UK Council will be convened. An invitation will be sent to successful candidates to attend ARM (planned for 27-30 June 2022 in Brighton – subject to Covid restrictions) and this meeting of UK Council.

During the session, meetings of council are normally held in BMA House in London or virtually. Starting at 10am, the business is usually concluded by approximately 5pm. Members' receipted travel and subsistence expenses are reimbursed as are receipted locum costs. Members are also eligible for the payment of honoraria after the completion, in any session, of 12 BMA meeting days. The conduct of meetings is governed by standing orders and copies of these are available to candidates on request.

Crèche facilities and prayer rooms or quiet rooms can be provided for members on council meeting days at BMA House. Further information on the BMA's care guidelines is available on the website, in addition to further details on current council membership and constitution.

Dates of meetings in the 2022-23 session

Wednesday 29 or Thursday 30 June 2022 UK Council Chair election at ARM (TBC)

Tuesday 12 July 2022 (Council induction day)

Wednesday 13 July 2022

Wednesday 14 September 2022

Wednesday 16 November 2022

Wednesday 25 January 2023

Wednesday 15 March 2023

Wednesday 17 May 2023

Wednesday 12 July 2023

Elections to UK Council

Timetable for the election

The timetable for the election is expected to be as follows:

Nominations open	Monday 10 January 2022
Nominations close	Monday 14 February 2022 at 4pm
Voting papers posted	Thursday 16 March 2022
Deadline for receipt of voting papers	Monday 19 April 2022 by 5pm
Results sent to candidates and placed on the BMA website.	Week commencing Monday 25 April 2022

The Returning Officer shall approve all election notices and deadlines and all voting papers shall be in the form prescribed by the Returning Officer. In the event of a dispute as to a candidate's eligibility to stand for election, the decision of the Returning Officer shall be final.

The ballot

The election will be conducted by secret ballot using single transferable vote. Voters will need to return the ballot to Civica Election Services (CES) as the Independent Scrutineers by post by the close of voting.

Each voter will be invited to vote by ranking the candidates in order of preference.

The contests will be counted in the following order 1 Branch of Practice 2 "Geographical" region/nation 3 Ethnic minority and constraints (counting rules) will be applied, as specified in the bye-laws.

Other information

The period for voting commences on the date on which the first voting papers in the election are posted. The time and date by which voting papers must be returned to Civica Election Services (CES) will appear on the voting papers.

If a serious interruption of postal services occurs after the Returning Officer has fixed the deadline for the return of voting papers, or after voting papers have been dispatched, a new deadline for the return of papers may be arranged. Any new deadline will be notified in BMA newsletters and on the website. If, after the period for voting commences, a candidate dies or withdraws their nomination or is found by the Returning Officer to be ineligible to be elected, that candidate will be withdrawn from the election count and votes for that candidate will be redistributed during the count.

In the event of a tie, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots in the presence of the BMA's Group Chief Executive Officer and independent scrutineers for the election.

If, after being declared elected and before taking up office, a candidate dies or withdraws their nomination or is found to be ineligible for election by the Returning Officer, the candidate elected will be the next highest candidate, allowing for any constraints that need to be met.

Candidates in the election will be notified by email, of the results and a detailed breakdown of all results will appear on the BMA's website.

UK COUNCIL ELECTION CATEGORIES / SEATS (voting)* 69 seats (NB: This is in addition to the current 22 ex-officio seats1)	
('GEOGRAPHICAL') REGION/NATION 40 seats	BRANCH OF PRACTICE 24 seats
<p>x1 English region – (4 seats each), of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender) – London</p> <p>x9 English regions – (each region has 3 seats of which no more than 2 shall be elected from the same gender) – Eastern – East midlands – North east – North west – South central – South east coast – South west – West midlands – Yorkshire</p> <p>x3 Nations – (each nation has 3 seats of which no more than 2 shall be elected from the same gender) – Scotland – Wales – Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Consultants (4 seats of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender)</p> <p>GPs (4 seats of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender)</p> <p>Junior doctors (5 seats which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender)</p> <p>Medical students* (3 seats of which no more than 2 shall be elected from the same gender) *2 year term of office</p> <p>SAS doctors (2 seats)</p> <p>Academics (1 seat)</p> <p>Public health doctors (1)</p> <p>Retired (1 seat)</p> <p>Armed forces (1 seat)</p> <p>Occupational health (1 seat)</p> <p>Other (1 seat)</p>
	ETHNIC MINORITY 5 SEATS
	<p>Ethnic minority seats (for members who self-identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic)</p> <p>5 seats of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender</p>

* Candidates to choose to opt out of either or both of the geographical or BoP election categories and to opt into the ethnic minority seats. The order of counting and allocation of seats is as follows:-
 1 The Branch of Practice
 2 The "Geographical" region/nation
 3 Ethnic minority (for members who self-identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic)
 As candidates are elected in each election category they are removed from the count and their votes redistributed.

1. President, representative body chair, council chair, treasurer, representative body deputy chair, the chairs of the following bodies: Northern Ireland council, Scottish council, Welsh council, consultants committee, general practitioners committee, junior doctors committee, medical academic staff committee, medical ethics committee, medical students committee, public health medicine committee, staff, associate specialists and specialty doctor committee, board of the BMJ publishing group, board of science, organisation committee, private practice committee, patient liaison group.

Term of office

Members elected to council in 2022 will serve a four-year term of office. They will take up office at the close of the 2022 ARM and will stand down following the ARM in 2026.

Elected members are eligible for re-election, provided that they continue to qualify for election.

Induction day

Those elected to council in 2022, will be required to attend a comprehensive induction session to be held at BMA House on Tuesday 12 July 2022 (subject to Covid conditions). This session will cover responsibilities and conduct, the work of council, information about the Association's political and professional work etc.

An induction pack will also be distributed to members, which will include information on the BMA's decision-making structures, organisation chart and useful contact details. Details about the BMA's boards and committees will also be made available, which will help new members in particular decide whether they wish to stand for election to them.

Code of conduct

Members of council are bound by a code of conduct available from the BMA's website [bma.org.uk/ukcouncil](https://www.bma.org.uk/ukcouncil)

Elections memorandum of understanding

The elections memorandum of understanding applies to all committee members and posts in the BMA. Candidates for election to posts will be asked to declare that they have read the memorandum of understanding when submitting their nominations.

The BMA can only function with the contributions of those members who seek election as representatives. Thank you for making the commitment to help represent your colleagues. In order that elected BMA representatives can work together effectively the following principles are important.

- When you are speaking to or communicating in the broadcast, print or social media as an elected BMA representative, or are identified as such, you must honestly represent the views of

- the BMA.
- When speaking in a personal capacity you must explicitly ask not to be identified as an elected BMA representative.
 - Committee officers must coordinate media engagements with the press office.
 - You must declare and update as required conflicts of interest as outlined in the BMA conflicts of interest policy.
 - You must uphold the confidentiality of your committee when requested. If in doubt, ask the chair of the committee or committee secretariat.
 - As a member of the medical profession and as an elected representative, you must behave in a professional manner at all times and abide by the BMA's code of conduct. Robust debate is sometimes essential in forming policy, but you must always treat patients, colleagues and staff with respect.
 - As an elected, appointed member, or representative of the BMA, you are expected to follow the guidelines and policies in place to protect you and the organisation, including, but not limited to: expenses and honoraria; technology and privacy; communication including social media policy; and anti-corruption and bribery.
 - All individuals engaged in BMA business eligible for BMA membership must be and continue to be BMA members.
 - In standing for election you agree to uphold these principles.

Relevant articles and bye-laws

Composition of UK Council

Extract from bye-laws 56(2) to 56(2) 2.3

Voting members

1. Council shall consist of 69 voting members at the point of election
2. Voting members will be elected by secret ballot by single transferable vote.
3. Voting members of council shall be drawn from the following three categories:
 - a. all UK nations/regions (as defined in paragraph 2.1 below)
 - b. all branches of practice (as defined in paragraph 2.2 below)
 - c. Ethnic minority (as further described in paragraph 2.3 below)
4. In each category the number of seats is set out in those paragraphs.
5. In each electoral category the electorate will be the whole of the membership.

2.1 UK nations/regions ('Geographical')

The UK nations/regions, and the number of seats each shall have on the council, shall be as follows:

London – 4 seats, of which no more than 3 shall be elected from the same gender

For the regions and nations 3 seats, of which no more than 2 shall be elected from the same gender:

Scotland – 3 seats

Wales – 3 seats

Northern Ireland – 3 seats

North east – 3 seats

North west – 3 seats

South central – 3 seats

South east coast – 3 seats

Eastern – 3 seats

South west –3 seats

West Midlands – 3 seats

East Midlands – 3 seats

Yorkshire – 3 seats

2.2 Branches of practice ('BoP')

The branches of practice categories, and the number of seats on the council allocated to each are:

The branches of practice categories, and the number of seats on the council allocated to each are:

- (a) General practice – 4 seats, no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender
- (b) Consultants – 4 seats, no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender
- (c) Staff and associate specialists – 2 seats
- (d) Junior doctors – 5 seats, no more than 3 of which shall be elected from the same gender
- (e) Public health medicine and community health – 1 seat
- (f) Academics – 1 seat
- (g) Armed forces – 1 seat
- (h) Occupational medicine – 1 seat
- (i) Members in practice but not covered by (a) to (h) above – 1 seat
- (j) Retired members – 1 seat
- (k) Medical students – 3 seats, of which no more than 2 shall be elected from the same gender. The voting members elected in medical student branch of practice seats shall hold office for two years from the conclusion of the annual representative meeting in the year of their election until the conclusion of the annual representative meeting of the second year of their term of office.

2.3 Ethnic minority

(2.3) Ethnic minority (members who self-identify as Black, Asian and minority ethnic)

The number of ethnic minority (members who self-identify as Black, Asian and minority ethnic) elected seats shall be five of which no more than three shall be of the same gender.

57. Council shall have the right to amend the categories of branches of practice and shall define the criteria for each branch of practice from time to time, having regard to advice from the organisation committee.

Nomination and election of elected members of UK Council Extract from bye-laws 58-62

58. Mode of Nomination and Election of Elected Members of Council

- (1) All candidates shall be voting members of the Association.
- (2) A candidate's UK nation or region shall be determined by their address on the Association's register of members at the time when nominations in the election open.
- (3) A candidate's primary branch of practice shall, save for medical students and retired members, be determined by that category of medical work in which, at the time when nominations in the election open, the candidate spends the majority of their remunerated medical time.
- (4) In the event of a dispute as to a candidate's eligibility to stand for election, the decision of the returning officer shall be final.
- (5) In the event of a tie in the election, the result will be decided by drawing lots in the presence of the chief executive and the independent scrutineer for the election.
- (6) A candidate can at the point of nomination opt out of being elected to either a geographical or branch of practice seat
- (7) A candidate can at the point of nomination opt in to be elected to an ethnic minority seat.
- (8) There shall be no age restriction on membership of council.

Term of Office and Eligibility for Re election

59.

- (1) Voting members of council shall hold office for four years, with the exception of those voting members elected to the medical students branch of practice seats, from the conclusion of the annual representative meeting in the year of their election until the conclusion of the fourth next following annual representative meeting. Voting members elected to medical students branch of practice seats shall hold office for two years from the conclusion of the annual representative meeting in the year of their election until the conclusion of the annual representative meeting of the second year of their term of office.
- (2) Voting members of council shall be eligible for re-election provided always that they continue to qualify for election.
- (3) Ex-officio members of council shall hold office until the election of their successors.

Vacancies

60. Any casual vacancy in the council shall be filled by council, in its discretion and having regard to the branch of practice and geographical balance of council, appointing a member of the Association it reasonably believes to be qualified to fill the vacancy. The person filling the vacancy shall retain their office until the next election and they shall not have a vote.
61. A voting seat/casual vacancy can be filled by a decision of UK Council using either a ballot by the entire voting membership or the respective branch of practice/geographical voting membership subset of the Association.
62. In the case of a vacancy in the council occasioned by a failure to elect, the council in its discretion may appoint a member of the Association qualified to fill the vacancy and the person filling the vacancy shall retain their office until the next election but they shall have no vote.

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